

## Appendix: Islands in the Channel Islands State Marine Park

The following information was drawn from the proposal to establish the State Marine Park (*Juneau Channel Islands, A State Marine Park Proposal*, 1994), and from information obtained from Advisory Board member and the public.

### AARON ISLAND

**Location:** 17 miles northwest of Juneau in Favorite Channel, 1.2 miles Northwest of Point Stevens.

**Size:** 0.4 miles long

**History:** Orth's *Dictionary of Alaska Place Names* (1967) reports Captain L.A. Beardslee, U.S. Navy (USN), named Aaron Island in 1880 for a "relative of C.J. Vanderbilt, a local miner." DeArmond, however, suggests the island was named for Aaron Cohen, a resident of Sitka and Juneau. DeArmond also believes that Cohen Island and reef were also named for Aaron Cohen.

**Description:** The island consists mainly of cliffs and headlands. There is a small landing beach on the south end, and a rocky island at the northeast end with a small beach. The dominant vegetation is Sitka spruce/Western hemlock forest; the small rocky islet is covered with herbaceous vegetation. Bald eagles, black oystercatchers, and other seabirds use the island. There is a navigation light and reflector on the island. The island is used for picnicking and camping.



## **BATTLESHIP ISLAND**

**Location:** 9.9 miles Northwest of Juneau, 1.6 miles south of Village of Auke Bay

**Size:** 0.1 miles across

**History:** Battleship is a local descriptive name, first reported by DeArmond in 1957.

**Description:** The island is mostly a vegetated rock with steep sides and a fairly flat, forested top. There is one poor landing beach. The island is accessible via sheltered waters and is used for picnicking and camping.

## **BENJAMIN ISLAND**

**Location:** 25 miles northwest of Juneau, on east shore of Favorite Channel

**Size:** 1.5 miles long

**History:** Named by Captain L. A. Beardslee, USN, in 1880.

**Description:** There are three gravel beaches on the south end of Benjamin Island, and a good access beach on the northeast side of the island. The primary vegetation is typical spruce/hemlock forest. The island is an important haulout for Stellar sea lions, and is used by eagles, black oystercatchers and other birds.



## BIRD ISLAND

**Location:** 20 miles northwest of Juneau, in Favorite Channel, 2.4 miles northwest of Pearl Harbor

**Size:** 0.1 mile across

**History:** Named by Captain L. A. Beardslee, USN, in 1880. In February 1914, the schooner *W.H. Dimond* went aground on the island and was a total loss.

**Description:** Bird Island is mainly a rock about 60 feet high, with stunted trees on top. The south and west sides are steep cliffs; the east side of the island is less steep and access is difficult but possible. Bald eagles, pigeon guillemots, black oystercatchers, and other sea birds use the island.



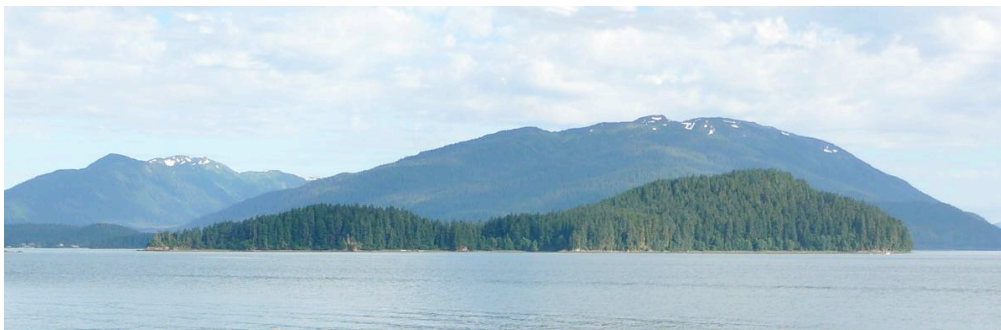
## COGHLAN ISLAND

**Location:** 11 miles northwest of Juneau, in Stevens Passage at the entrance to Auke Bay

**Size:** 1.0 mile long

**History:** Named in 1885 by U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey (USC&GS) for Commander Joseph Coghlan, who in 1883-84 commanded the *USS Adams* in a survey of this area.

**Description:** A Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) navigation beacon is located on the northern point. There are cliffs on the southwest side; beaches on the northwest and east sides provide good access. The forested island is used for picnicking and camping. The island is used for nesting by pigeon guillemots; black oystercatchers nest on the islets to the north. There is usually a significant deer population.



## **COHEN ISLAND**

**Location:** 16 miles northwest of Juneau, off the east shore of Favorite Channel, 1 mile northwest of Point Stevens

**Size:** 0.1 mile long

**History:** Named by USC&GS 1893 for Aaron Cohen (see Aaron Island)

**Description:** There are cliffs and headlands all around Cohen Island, with no good landing sites. The island is forested and is used by black oystercatchers and other birds.

## **GULL ISLAND**

**Location:** 22 miles northwest of Juneau, in Favorite Channel, 3.5 miles northwest Pearl Harbor

**Size:** 0.4 mile across

**History:** Named by Captain L. A. Beardslee 1880, because “it was covered by sea gulls.”

**Description:** Excellent sandy beach on the south end of the island, used for picnicking and camping. The island is forested and is used by black oystercatchers and other birds.





## INDIAN ISLAND

**Location:** 11 miles northwest of Juneau, across west end of Auke Bay, 0.4 miles south of Fairhaven

**Size:** 0.1 mile across

**History:** Name published in 1962 by U.S. Geological Survey. Site of two shipwrecks, one a wood fish scow abandoned in 1970 on the east shore. Was a site for herring roe harvest and harvest of herring and baitfish.

**Description:** Very accessible in sheltered waters, with two beaches that offer good landings. Forested island; used for picnicking and camping.



## LINCOLN ISLAND

**Location:** 24 miles northwest of Juneau, just south of the junction with Favorite Channel

**Size:** 4.7 miles long

**History:** Named in 1868 by Commander R. W. Meade, USN, presumably for Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1865, 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States

**Description:** There are gravel and cobble beaches on the east side, with low (30 ft.) headlands. A sandy beach with good access is located on the south end. The west side has cobble, rocky beaches. Lincoln Island is exposed to the winds and waves of Lynn Canal. The island is forested with open headlands on the east side and low herbaceous growth. There are deer and beaver, bald eagles, willow ptarmigan and other birds. The island is used for picnicking, camping, hunting and other uses.



Lincoln Island behind Shelter Island's north tip

## **NORTH ISLAND**

**Location:** 27 miles northwest of Juneau, off east shore Favorite Channel, 1.2 miles southwest of Yankee Cove

**Size:** 0.4 miles long

**History:** Named in 1880 by Captain L.H. Beardslee, USN, or in 1869 by Commander R.W. Meade, USN.

**Description:** North Island is exposed to northerly winds and seas, but also offers a popular anchorage cove. A sandy beach offers good access on the south end. The island is forested and is used by black oystercatchers and other birds.

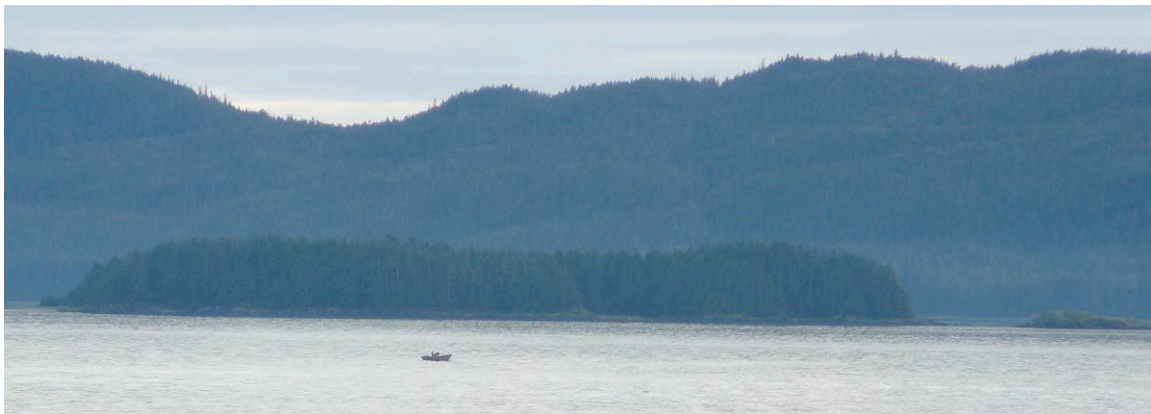
## **PORTLAND ISLAND**

**Location:** 12 miles northwest of Juneau, in Stevens Passage, 2 miles south of Point Louisa

**Size:** 1.1 miles long

**History:** Named in 1880 by Captain L.H. Beardslee, USN.

**Description:** Portland Island is primarily forested, with an extensive non-forested reef on the north end. There is an old campground with picnic tables and outhouse located on the southwest side. There is a sandy beach on the southwest corner, a beach on east side, and a gravel beach near the northern reef. Black oystercatchers nest and stage on the north reef, as do other birds.



## **RALSTON ISLAND**

**Location:** 27 miles northwest of Juneau, .2 miles north of Lincoln Island

**Size:** 1.0 mile long

**History:** Named by Commander R.W. Meade, USN, in 1868, for W.C. Ralston. A World War II CAA (now FAA) radio range station was once located on the northern shore of the island; remnants of the facility are still visible.

**Description:** Ralston Island is forested, with some open meadows. There are headlands on the east side, landing beaches on the south and east side, and extensive reefs on the east side. The island is used for picnicking and camping.



## **SHELTER ISLAND**

**Location:** 12 miles northwest of Juneau, between Favorite and Saginaw Channels, .6 mile southeast Lincoln Island

**Size:** 1.1 mile long

**History:** Named by Commander R.W. Meade, USN, in 1869.

**Description:** Shelter Island is heavily forested with spruce, hemlock, and scattered groves of Alaska yellow cedar. Deer are common on the island and are hunted. There is a state park cabin at Hand Troller Cove (west side), and camping areas at Hand Troller and Halibut Cove (east side). The southern end of the island is not in the State Marine Park; this area was subdivided and sold by the state.

## **SUEDLA ISLAND**

**Location:**

**Size:** 0.3 mile long

**History:** Local name, origin unknown. There are ruins of a cabin and fox pens in the center of the island.

**Description:** Suedla Island is forested, with three small gravel beaches on the east side; other sides are cliffs. There is a sandy beach on the connected islet on the east side. The island is accessible via sheltered waters. The island is used for picnicking and camping.